

**OLD BLACKSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL (OBMS)
TRANSITION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2007 MEETING**

Present

Blacksburg

Councilman Paul Lancaster
Citizen Member Kathryn Albright
Town Manager Marc Verniel

Montgomery County

BoS Member Gary Creed
Citizen Member Gary McCoy
County Administrator Clay Goodman

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes of December 20, 2006

On a motion by Marc Verniel, seconded by Gary McCoy and carried unanimously, the Minutes of December 20, 2006 were accepted.

Discussion of Proposed Design Competition

Donna Dunay and Sara Thorn-Thomsen of the Townscape Committee reported on the meeting with Town Manager Marc Verniel and County Administrator Clay Goodman, held on January 16, 2007 to develop a possible outline for the design competition that was presented at the OBMS Transition Committee's December 20, 2006 meeting. A possible outline was reported as follows:

Scope

Competition for a landmark site and buildings of the former Blacksburg Middle School for the future of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia.

- Competition Outline – Government and community requirements (county, town, and citizens forum)
- Programming requirements to define competition brief
- Selection and orientation of professional jury
- Competition launch

1st Stage

- On site jury orientation
- Jury deliberations and presentation of finalists
- Five Projects selected to advance to 2nd Stage
- Exhibition for review and discussion by citizens, county, town
(20-30 competition entries selected including the five finalists)

2nd Stage

- Five finalist projects focus upon detail and implementation plan
(Utilize review and discussions from conclusion of 1st Stage)
- First and Second Prize Awarded
- RFP/contract

Resources

- Recognizing longstanding interest in this site, the competition offers the opportunity for community support from citizen, neighborhood, and business associations
- The Townscape Committee proposes to sponsor the competition in cooperation with the county, town and university

Timeframe

- Organization 3-4 months
- 1st Stage 3-4 months (fall or spring)
- 2nd Stage 3-4 months (fall or spring)

Project Cost

\$150,000 (approximate)

Economic Benefit

- Promotes property and project to largest possible audience
- Returns on property
 - Sale or long-term lease
 - Annual Taxes to local governments
 - Community spin-offs (affirms value of the community-county and town)
 - Raising the bar on quality of development
 - Inclusive process to garner long-term promotion from community and all groups

Discussions included the need to specify in the RFP that the OBMS Transition Committee is looking for a do-able plan. The committee also needs the flexibility to be able to incorporate elements of all, or some, of the different projects.

It was the consensus of the committee that the public forums would be held jointly by the county and town.

Ms. Albright offered to contact the legal council of the American Institute of Architects and request information on how they handle competitions.

Approval by Town Council and Board of Supervisors

It was the consensus of the OBMS Transition Committee that a plan would be ready by March, 2007 and presented in a joint meeting of the Town Council and Board of Supervisors for approval by both governing bodies.

OBMS Web Page

Mr. Lancaster thanked the County Administrator for getting the OBMS web page up and running. The County's web page has a direct link to the OBMS web page.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the OBMS Transition Committee will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Approved: _____
Chairman

Date: _____